leaved Sundews (*Drosera intermedia* Hayne, var. *Americana*, DC.), which I collected here on July 4, 1898, were behaving in such unusual fashion that it seems proper to record it.

Our Sundews are all "stemless" plants, so called; that is to say, the leaves are all tufted at the base of the flower-stock in a rosette upon the ground. When, however, this long-leaved species gets into deep water, it gets out by raising this basal rosette of leaves, and the flower-stalk, "on its prolonged caudex" (Gray, Manual, 6th ed. p. 178), the "rootstock" (not the stem), "is elongated two to four inches when growing in water" (Britt. & Brown, Ill. Flora, II, p. 161). And we often find such specimens with the tuft of root-leaves many inches from the ground, after the water has perhaps subsided. Now, these long-leaved Sundews at Ponkapog were growing upon a floating mud-bank, and, though but little submerged, they were getting up, not at all by the elongation of the rootstock, as prescribed, but by the elongation of the stem proper, thus transforming our stemless Drosera into a long-stemmed plant with scattered leaves. The leaves were no longer tufted at the base, but by the lengthening of the internodes were now disposed separately along the stem.

This is so well shown by the figure which Mr. Faxon has kindly drawn that little further description is needed. The plants were from six to ten inches high, not more than two inches below the water, and branched from the base. There were no traces of flowers or fruit; the unusual development of stem and leaf had apparently exhausted the plant and rendered it sterile.

The significance of this unusual development remains in doubt. Some exotic members of this family are caulescent. Is this a reversion to an ancient type, which is so often suggested or indicated by such abnormal growths? Or are these individuals the forerunners or advance guard in their species, progressing through evolution and natural selection towards a superior and more advantageous form, to which their related species have long ago attained? — J. R. CHURCHILL, Boston.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 15, fig 8. Caulescent form of *Drosera intermedia*, var. *Americana*.

RUSSULA EMETICA IN VERMONT. — *Russula emetica* Fr. has been frequently reported for the United States, but, until last October, I had failed to collect specimens clearly referable to it. Its close relative

Russula fragilis (Pers.) Fr. has been found from time to time, but always of small size and with the lamellae too crowded to be regarded as *R. emetica*.

On October 14 last I collected *Russula emetica* in ample quantity in a sphagnum bog on Grand View Mt., Vt. The specimens were growing scattered about in sphagnum under the small trees and bushes which thinly cover the marginal portions of the bog. The habitat is so peculiar that, if characteristic, it may be of aid in locating this species elsewhere.

The specimens were as watery as an Hygrophorus when collected and very fragile: pileus 5–8 cm. diameter, viscid, depressed, margin at length somewhat sulcate, cuticle separable; flesh white, red beneath the cuticle, very acrid; stem white, softer within, firm at first; lamellae white, remaining white, subdistant, free or adnexed, equal, edge not eroded; spores white, echinulate. — E. A. BURT, Middlebury, Vermont.

DR. BURT'S NOTE ON RUSSULA EMETICA should receive attention from the many collectors of toadstools, who, without study of the inconspicuous differences which separate one member of the genus from another, are prone to apply the name of this particular species to any red Russula with an acrid taste — or at least to any that may at the same time be viscid, red, and acrid. So used, the name of *Russula emetica* commonly serves as a convenient designation for those specimens that in the process of sorting out such as are fit for eating are discarded on account of their taste. The real *Russula emetica* is doubtless known to few, though it is, after Amanita, perhaps the most frequently mentioned of noxious species.

As to its edible possibilities (and such possibilities nowadays seem to attract mycophagists even more keenly than established actualities) there is in the records much difference of opinion. Uncooked, however, acrid Russulas are certainly poisonous; yet there is good weight of evidence that they may be so treated as to be harmless.

Even the tasting process has its discomforts, if not its dangers, in the case of these acrid Russulas. Some years ago the writer was one of an active party that brought well-filled baskets out of the Holliston (Mass.) woods. During the drive to the railway station one of the ladies occupied herself in sorting her red-topped Russulas — in the approved way. Her basket was large and her collection ample, most of the specimens being of acrid sorts. By the time the station was reached

some dozens had been tasted and thrown away. Although no ill effects were felt immediately by the taster, beyond some discomfort in the tongue, it was not long before more serious trouble appeared in the shape of disturbances of the digestive system and other symptoms of irritant poisoning. For several days the ill effects were seriously felt, and a partial paralysis of the sense of taste, and a burry, or sand-papery feeling of the tongue lasted for some time longer. Such an experience may well be avoided by all who care to take warning. — H. W.

THE LOCAL FLORAS OF NEW ENGLAND (ADDENDA).

MARY A. DAY.

(*Concluded.*)

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